Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 05219 130818Z ACTION NEA-11

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TAGS: BEXP, OTRA, JO

SUBJ: TRAVEL OF MICHIGAN STATE OFFICIAL, B. DALE BALL

REF: (A) STATE 37520, (B) AMMAN 1734,

- 1. PRIVATE JORDANIAN BUSINESSMAN WHO ASSISTED GOJ DURING FEBRUARY, 1978 VISIT TO AMMAN OF MICHIGAN STATE OFFICIAL B. DALE BALL (HIS BUSINESS CARD GIVES HIS TITLE AS "MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE"), RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM BALL EVENING OF JUNE 10, BALL INDICATED HE WOULD MAKE RETURN VISIT TO JORDAN "AFTER SEPTEMBER VISIT TO CHINA." ACCORDING TO JORDANIAN BUSINESSMAN, BALL WILL RETURN TO JORDAN IN CONNECTION WITH PLAN FOR USG RPT USG "FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SHOW" TO BE MOUNTED IN AMMAN. APPARENTLY, DURING FEBRUARY VISIT TO AMMAN, BALL ALSO DISCUSSED USG SPONSORED "SHOW" FOR AMMAN. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT CONTACTING BALL AND ADVISING US OF HIS PLANS.
- 2. DURING HIS LAST VISIT TO AMMAN, BALL AND ACCOM-PANYING MICHIGAN OFFICIAL, MONSOUR BEJAOUI, DID NOT MAKE CONTACT WITH EMBASSY DESPITE REF B). BALL LEFT IMPRESSION AT THAT TIME WITH SOME JORDAN-IANS, INCLUDING RANKING MEMBERS OF GOJ, THAT HE IN-UNCLASSIFIED

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TENDED TO ACTIVELY PURSUE NUMBER OF TRADE OPPORTUNITIES, AND POSSIBLY "SHOW" IN JORDAN. AT THAT TIME "SHOW" APPARENTLY CONCERNED AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT. BALL LEFT MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE OFFICIALS WITH IMPRESSION THAT AFTER HIS FIRST VISIT HE WOULD RETURN FOR SECOND VISIT WITHIN ONE WEEK. TRIP DID NOT MATERIALIZE, TO CONSTERNATION OF GOJ OFFICIAL

SENT TO AIRPORT TO MEET BALL. PREVIOUS BALL TRIP
THROUGH MIDDLE EAST SEEMS TO HAVE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE
CONFUSION IN OTHER POSTS AS WELL. WE HOPE
THAT IF MICHIGAN STATE "MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE"
DOES INDEED RETURN TO AMMAN, HIS VISIT WILL BE
BETTER COORDINATED THAN LAST ONE. PICKERING

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